

REMARKS

Elected claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over ***Gillespie et al.*** in view of JP '220, JP '457 or JP '419 and either ***Chen, Dugan et al*** or ***Takai***.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

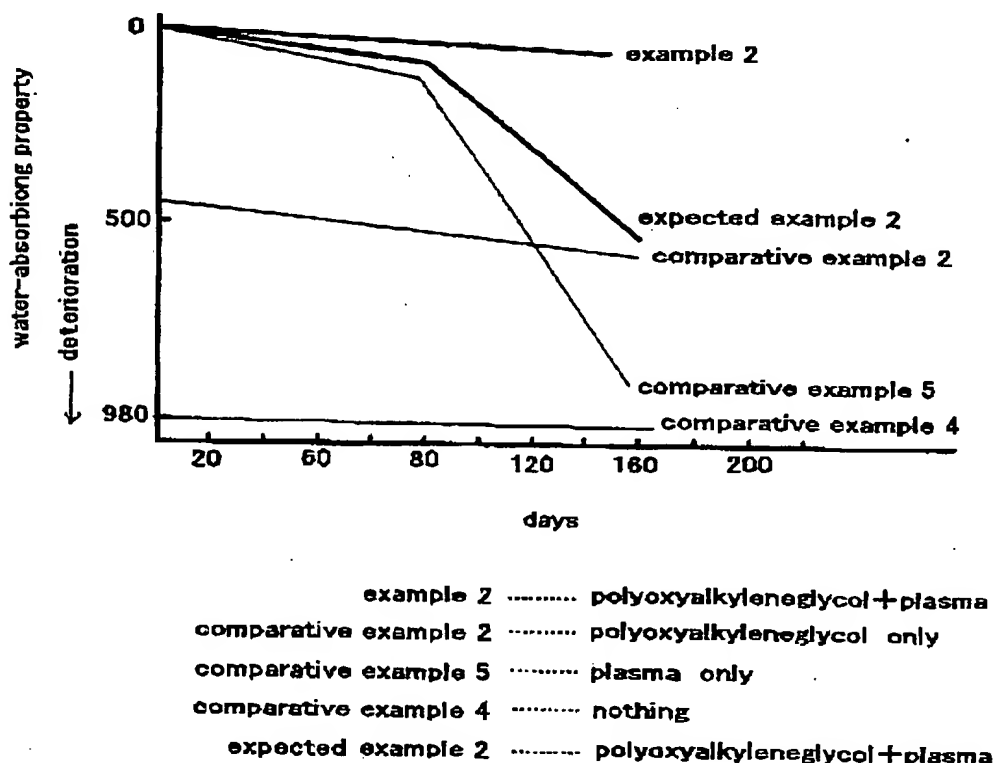
Gillespie et al. teaches a wiping cloth made of nonwoven fabric comprising splittable conjugate fibers each of which consists of a combination of polyester and polyolefin polymers. ***Gillespie*** also teaches polymers containing additives. ***Gillespie et al.*** does not teach, however, using polyoxyalkyleneglycol as the additive nor to a plasma treatment to improve the water-absorbing property of the wiping cloth.

JP '220, JP '457 or JP '419 also teach a wiping cloth made of a nonwoven fabric comprising conjugate fibers in each of which polyoxyalkyleneglycol is contained. These do not teach, however, the use of splittable conjugate fibers nor to a plasma treatment for improved water-absorption.

Chen, Dugan et al or ***Takai*** also lack a teaching of splittable conjugate fibers using polyoxyalkyleneglycol.

Bits-and-pieces are found in the cited references, but a coherent teaching of the invention as a whole is not found in these references.

Using polyoxyalkyleneglycol alone will not improve water-absorption, and it is also insufficient to prevent deterioration in water-absorption using a plasma treatment only. See the graph below.




Actual example 2 which shows the results with polyoxyalkyleneglycol and plasma, is shown to produce superior results and such results were not expected.

Claim 14, (prior claim 1) recites both polyoxyalkyleneglycol and plasma treatment. None of the references, as noted above, touch this combination. Therefore, it is not possible to consider claim 14 unpatentable under 35 USC 103 because the two essential features of claim 14, namely polyoxyalkyleneglycol and plasma treatment are missing acting together.

Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above comments and current amendments to the claims, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 14, 3, 5 and 6 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted


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